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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Presentation looks at effects of war in Nicaragua" (2005). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 19347.
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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 7, 2005

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PRESENTATION LOOKS AT EFFECTS OF WAR IN NICARAGUA

MISSOULA—

“Nicaragua: Living with the Consequences of U.S. Policy” will be presented at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, in The University of Montana’s North Underground Lecture Hall.

The histories of Nicaraguans who live with the physical and psychological scars of the Contra war will be presented in this photo and testimony project compiled by Paul Dix and Pam Fitzpatrick.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

During the 1980s, the United States supported the Contras, a proxy army in Nicaragua, with the objective of coercing the civilian population to oust the Sandinista government. Dix, a photographer, was in Nicaragua from 1985 to 1990, and Fitzpatrick was director of the North Pacific office of Witness for Peace in the country from 1985 to 1993. They worked to change U.S. policy toward the country.

In 1990, after the deaths of more than 30,000 Nicaraguans during the Contra war, the Sandinistas were voted out of office. They peacefully turned rule of the country over to UNO, a coalition of parties supported by the U.S. government.

Dix and Fitzpatrick returned to Nicaragua during the past three years to search for people

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Dix had photographed in the 1980s and to document the effects of the war on their daily lives.

They succeeded in locating many of those people. A rare glimpse into the lives of these resilient individuals is offered in their presentation.

Sponsors of the presentation are the UM Environmental Studies Program, Community Action for Justice in the Americas, Environmental Action Community, the Montana Human Rights Network, the UM Department of Political Science, Missoula Friends Quaker Community and Jubilee Montana Network, Lutheran Campus Ministry, the Rev. Jim Hogan, the UM School of Journalism and the University Center Multicultural Alliance.

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